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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. **3 MAY** 1954

SUBJECT 53rd PTP Battalion and Headquarters

NO. OF PAGES **6**PLACE ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS. **2**
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. DATE ACQUIRED 25X1A Date of Information

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. "The 53rd PTP (military labor battalion) Battalion and headquarters in Rajhrad has five companies numbered one to five, and each having a letter designation. The 4th Company has 'M', the 2nd Company 'C'. Each company averages 220 men, and is divided into four groups, each group having three swarms [squads?]. The 53rd PTP Battalion had the code number 9991, and was addressed at Post Box 522-16/C, Brno. It was directly subordinate to the Ministry of Defense in Prague.
2. "This labor battalion had about 1200 men varying in age from 20 to 40 years. Most of the men were young and should have served regular military terms, but were considered unreliable by FMTMV (Muži dřevohrubin - Army Builders, the organization which has exclusive construction rights for the army). The older men at the battalion were formerly members of the German army who had become Czechoslovak citizens, then farmers or craftsmen, and were not considered reliable for administrative posts. They had been labeled as lazy and opposing the regime, and, despite their age, were given duty with this battalion. Finally, there were about two hundred priests who had refused to recognize the new church law issued by the Communists.
3. "Thirty percent of the men who started service with the 53rd PTP Battalion in early October 52 were released on 20 November 52, after six weeks of special military training. The others were required to serve until 31 December 53, and their records stated that they had been kept on for 'extraordinary training' to terminate on that date. Only those were released who had signed a pledge stating that they would work in the coal mines or in heavy industry for three years after their release from military service. The men were not told that if they refused to sign this pledge, they would be required to serve an additional 13 months in the military. This practice had been in existence in 1951 as well, with the difference that in 1951 those refusing to sign had been required to serve 25 months in addition [7]. Therefore, when the soldiers who started ser-

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vice in October 52 and signed the pledge were released in November 52, the morale of those who had not signed and had not known what the consequences would be, was very low. Officer morale was also low. The officers had been, for the most part, members of the Protectorate Army, and had not, thus far, undergone any purges. Discipline was poor, and loyalty to the regime nil.

4. "Soldiers of the 53rd PTP Battalion were paid 13 Kc a day (10 Kc plus 3 Kc for cigarettes, etc.) A soldier who worked for AMRSTAV drew wages the same as regular employees of this company, but from the soldier's ARMSTAV wages 110 Kc a day were deducted for food, clothing, etc. Fifty percent of the remainder of his wages was given to the soldier, and 50% placed in a savings account to be given him upon his release. If a soldier working for ARMSTAV worked longer than eight hours in a day, he was paid overtime and the deduction was 110 Kc a day. If he put in a 12 hour day, the deduction was 165 Kc. Soldiers averaged 800 to 1000 Kc after deductions [net, per month?].
5. "The food was ordinary but badly prepared and served.
6. "Political education was given those who did not work for ARMSTAV, three times a week for two hours each time.
7. "Officers of the 53rd PTP Battalion were as follows:

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8. "After the deaths of Stalin and Gottwald, men were confined to the barracks; and if they worked with ARMSTAV they were continually guarded (even at the place

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of work). This precaution was continued until after Gottwald's funeral.

9.

[REDACTED]

10. Following is the legend, with notes, for Enclosure A, sketch-map of Brno -- 53rd PTP Battalion installations:

1. Headquarters of the 53rd PTP Battalion, Rajhrad, located in an old castle. This battalion was transferred to Rajhrad from Libava in February 1952.
2. Artillery Barracks, Kralove Pole [a section of Brno?], known as the Cadet School. This barracks consists of two-story brick buildings. [REDACTED] in them [REDACTED], at which time one artillery regiment was quartered here.
3. Two-story buildings for officers. Buildings are 50 by 10 meters, brick roofs, yellow.
4. Auto repair garage for all vehicles of ARMSTAV. This garage employs 30 [civilians?] and 10 soldiers.
5. Here a concrete base was laid for new barracks. Four companies of soldiers worked with large bulldozers. [REDACTED] the construction was not completed.
6. Five one-story wooden buildings: barracks for soldiers working on the construction [see number 5].
7. Radar station at the Brno (Slatina) Airport.

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11. Following is a list of installations observed [REDACTED] in the vicinity of Breclav. The numbered list serves as a legend for Enclosure B:

1. Radar station, located in Moravska Nove Ves. This station had two similar radar installations. Nearby were two tents. (The soldiers in the tents were apparently guards. They had khaki uniforms with black markings on the collar, also a red edging to the collar). Telephone lines ran from the tents [on normal flocks (sic)].
2. Electrical transformer located about 250 meters from the radar station, at the end of an electrical junction line [number 3].
3. Electrical junction from a 15,000 high tension line to the transformer. This junction was installed in November 52.
4. High tension line.
5. Barracks of Technical Battalion, Breclav.

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6. Headquarters of PS, Breclav. This was used as residence for the Commander of the PS Breclav unit. It was formerly a castle: 50 by 15 meters.
7. Technical warehouse: this installation consisted of two concrete buildings supported by concrete pilings; buildings were raised about one meter above ground level. Each building was 50 by 8 meters. A guardhouse, 7 by 5 meters, was also there. About 20 men from the 53rd PTP Battalion, and about 20 ARMSTAV workers were used on construction.

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ENCLOSURES: A: Sketch-map of Brno, showing 53rd PTP Battalion installations.
B: Sketch-map of Hodonin, showing other installations in area.

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111.2	27M
253	27M
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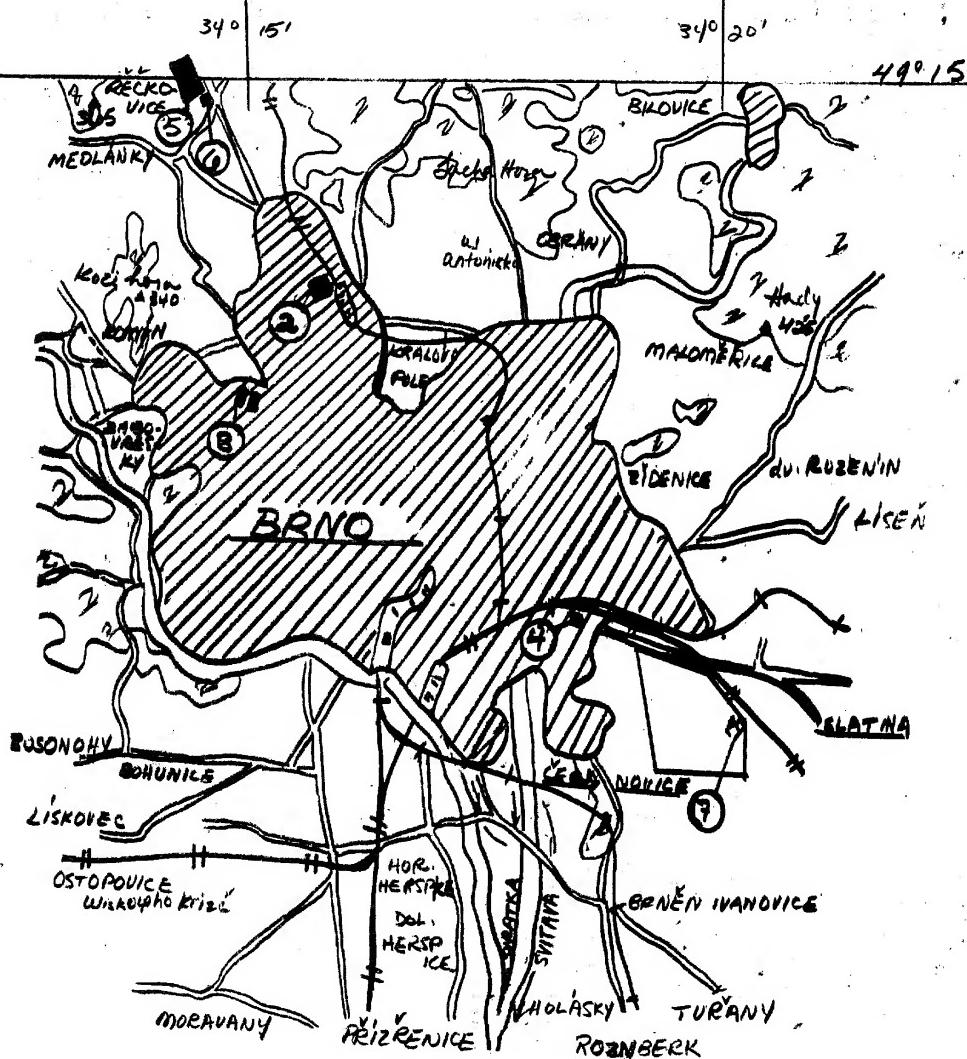
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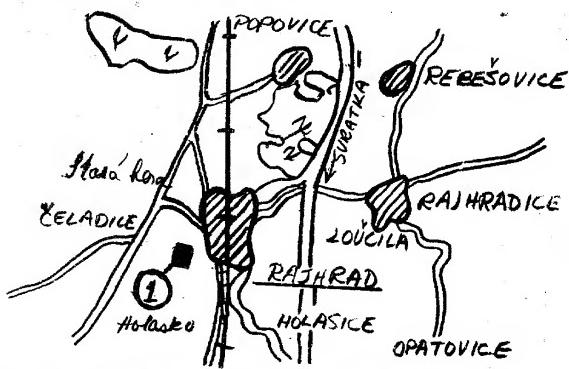
ENCLOSURE (A)

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53rd PTP BATTALION INSTALLATIONS**BRNO 4357**

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VOJENSKY ZEMEPISNY USTAV V PRAZE

(A)

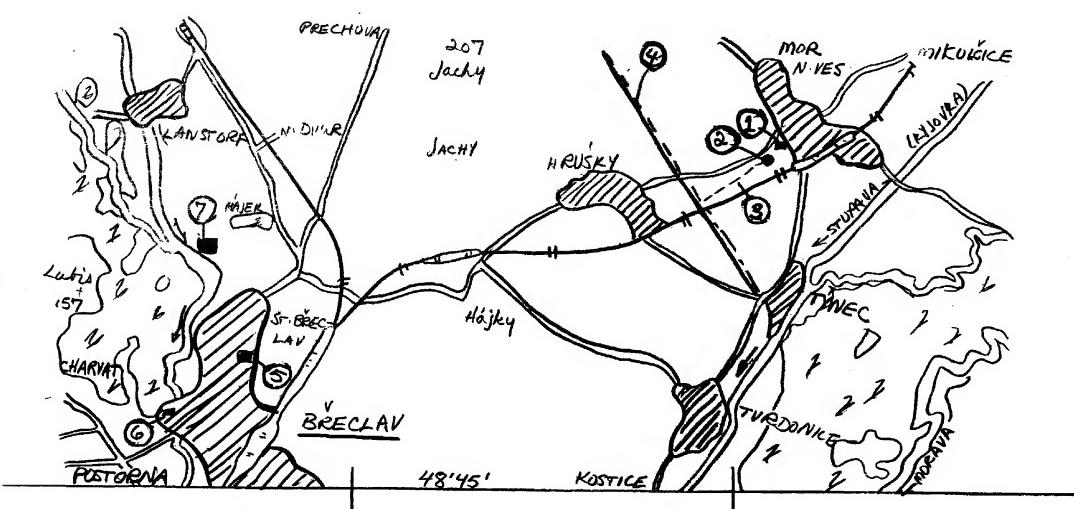


1. Headquarters, 53rd PTP Battalion
2. Artillery barracks
3. Two-story buildings for officers
4. Auto. repair garage
5. New barracks under construction at time of report
6. Five one-story wooden buildings, - barracks for soldiers employed on construction
7. Radar station

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HODONÍN 44 581:75,000
vojenský zeměpisný ústav v. Praze

(B)



INSTALLATIONS - HODONÍN AREA

Legend: 1. Radar station; 2. Electrical transformer; 3. Electrical junction; 4. High tension voltage line;

5. Barracks of Technical Battalion, Breclav; 6. Headquarters of PS, Breclav; 7. Technical warehouse.

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